

# HOUSING & SOCIAL SERVICES

WORKGROUP OF THE MULTICULTURAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE OF UTAH'S COVID-19 RESPONSE

## WHAT IS HOUSING & SOCIAL SERVICES?

The purpose of the Housing & Social Services (H&SS) workgroup is to address the needs of multicultural communities - throughout Utah - in relationship to housing, mental health, and other related social services. The group exists to understand how COVID-19 is adversely affecting social services for Utah's diverse communities and then to collaborate and find solutions to address unmet needs while building on existing community assets and resources.

The H&SS workgroup is focusing on three areas of importance: 1.) ensuring that all communities have access to emergency rental assistance through resources made available from the CARES Act; 2.) identifying how funding is flowing from the Department of Human Services (DHS) in order to ensure that multicultural communities have access to high quality and culturally relevant mental health and substance use services; and 3.) identifying CARES Act funding gaps for which undocumented and mixed-status families are ineligible.

The COVID-19 pandemic is adversely affecting economic, health, and other resource access for communities throughout the state and as such, this workgroup plans to ensure greater awareness and access to said resources - especially those made available or allocated through funds specific to the pandemic.

As of early July 2020, the workgroup is in the process of gathering and analyzing data on evictions throughout the state to determine how multicultural communities are affected. The workgroup is still finalizing plans for the areas of mental health/substance use and unrestricted funding for undocumented communities.

## GOALS OF THE WORKGROUP



### SHORT TERM GOALS

- Gather data and measure the number and impact of evictions on Utah's multicultural communities.
- Influence and shift the Utah Department of Human Services' COVID-19 emergency mental health/substance use funding streams to ensure adequate attention to multicultural communities.
- Identify funding resources that will bridge the existing gap for undocumented people in the state.



### LONG TERM GOALS



- Ensure members of the community are able to seek out services and then receive them (for all identified areas).

# GOALS CONTINUED

## HOW WILL THESE GOALS ACHIEVE ACCESS?

These goals will achieve access by finding and addressing gaps in services and then using workgroup connections and resources to bridge gaps with access to funding, information, and/or additional resources.

### KEY TERMS

- **Social Services:** Include mental health and substance abuse services, housing resources such as support for renters and/or supports to prevent eviction.
- **Unrestricted funding:** This is typically private funding that can be used to support people who may be undocumented and/or part of a mixed-status family.
- **Undocumented:** An individual who does not have formal documentation of residency or citizenship in the United States.
- **Mixed-status family:** A family unit that has a mixture of people who may be undocumented, have residency, and/or citizenship for the United States.

### RESOURCES

- [Utah's Against Hunger](#)
- [Comunidades Unidas/Communities United](#)
- [Utah Department of Workforce Services - Refugee Services](#)
- [Catholic Community Services of Utah](#)
- [Utah Division of Substance Abuse & Mental Health](#)
- [Utah Community Action](#)

## WORKGROUP-SPECIFIC COMMUNITY PARTNERS

If organizations are interested in partnering with the housing & social services workgroup, please contact Joél Arvizo-Zavala at [joelarvizo@utah.gov](mailto:joelarvizo@utah.gov). We will work with members of the workgroup to determine common areas of interest and program feasibility.

## RACIAL EQUITY AND INCLUSION FUND

The Racial Equity and Inclusion Fund is providing COVID-19 grants for community organizations and nonprofits who serve disproportionately impacted communities. Apply through August 21st at [multicultural.utah.gov](https://multicultural.utah.gov). Donations are also welcome.